

Appl. No. 10/624,016
Atty. Docket No. AA536XC&
Amdt. dated 7 September 2006
Reply to Office Action of 9 June 2006
Customer No. 27752

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A catamenial tampon, comprising:

a primary absorbent member; and
a withdrawal cord having a withdrawal portion and an attachment portion, the attachment portion being joined to the primary absorbent member;
the withdrawal cord including a composite yarn which includes a continuous string, and a secondary absorbent member joined to a part of the continuous string and the primary absorbent member;
wherein the continuous string and secondary absorbent member are a single piece of the composite yarn; and
wherein the continuous string which has the secondary absorbent member joined thereto is woven according to a predetermined weaving manner after being provisionally twisted, thereby forming the attachment portion and the withdrawal portion.

Claim 2. (Original) The catamenial tampon of Claim 1, wherein the predetermined weaving manner is a tubular weaving manner.

Claim 3. (Original) The catamenial tampon of Claim 1, wherein the diameter ratio of the attachment portion to the withdrawal portion of the withdrawal cord is at least about 1.5.

Claim 4. (Original) The catamenial tampon of Claim 1, wherein the attachment portion of the withdrawal cord is stitched to the primary absorbent member according to a predetermined stitching manner.

Claim 5. (Original) The catamenial tampon of Claim 4, wherein at least a part of the withdrawal portion of the withdrawal cord is additionally stitched according to the predetermined stitching manner.

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Claim 6. (Original) The catamenial tampon of Claim 4, wherein the predetermined stitching manner is the double ring stitching which is described in the Japanese Industrial Standard (JIS) No. B 9070.

Claim 7. (Original) The catamenial tampon of Claim 1, wherein the withdrawal cord has a wicking mechanism which wicks a fluid upwardly toward the primary absorbent member.

Claim 8. (Original) The catamenial tampon of Claim 7, wherein the wicking mechanism is a hydrophilicity gradient, a density gradient, or a capillary gradient formed in the withdrawal cord.

Claim 9. (Original) The catamenial tampon of Claim 1, wherein the secondary absorbent member is a fleece.

Claim 10. (Original) The catamenial tampon of Claim 1, wherein the continuous string includes a plurality of strings.

Claims 11-17 (Cancelled)